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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/597,413	07/25/2006	Jakob Gerrit Nijboer	NL 040129	1739
24737	7590	10/17/2008	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			ORTIZ CRIADO, JORGE L	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2627	
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10/17/2008	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/597,413	NIJBOER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	JORGE L. ORTIZ CRIADO	2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 is rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claim recites only functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical

Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. WO2004/059648.

As per claim 1, Takahashi et al discloses a record carrier (1) comprising at least one area (21; DMWA) for storing disc management information, said record carrier further comprising and area (14) comprising signals indicating whether or not the areas for storing disc management information are in use, each one of said signals related to one of said areas for storing disc management information (see Figs. 2, 6, 8).

As per claim 2, Takahashi et al discloses wherein the area comprising signals indicating whether or not the areas for storing disc management information are in use is located inside a first one of said at least one area for storing disc management information (see Fig. 2).

As per claim 3, Takahashi et al discloses wherein the area comprising signals indicating whether or not the areas for storing disc management information are in use is located adjacent to a first one of said at least one area for storing disc management information (see Fig. 2).

As per claim 4, Takahashi et al discloses wherein the signals indicating whether or not the areas for storing disc management information are in use are clusters on a record carrier (1 block; see page 29, lines 10-11), said clusters comprising marks for indicating a first status of said areas for storing disc management information and comprising no marks for indicating a second status of said areas for storing disc management information (see Figs. 6, 8).

As per claim 5, Takahashi et al discloses the first status indicates that the areas for storing disc management information are in use (See for example Fig. 8 (a), DMWA # 2, and the second status indicates that the areas for storing disc management information are not in use (DMWA#1).

As per claim 6, is drawn to the method of recording the above record carrier having limitations similar to the ones treated above, and is rejected for the same reasons of anticipation.

As per claim 7, Takahashi et al discloses wherein the step of accessing the area comprising signals indicating whether or not the areas for storing disc management information are in use consist of jumping to a predefined location on the record carrier (see Fig. 6).

As per claim 8, Takahashi et al discloses wherein the step of retrieving the disc management information comprises retrieving pointer information from a predefined location in the last area for storing disc management information in use, and subsequently retrieving the disc management information by using said pointer information (see Fig. 5).

Claim 9 is drawn to “an apparatus” adapted for performing the above method of claim 6 and is rejected for the same reasons of anticipation as the reference above discloses an apparatus that has the ability and perform such method.

Furthermore, it is noted that that an element that is “adapted for” perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JORGE L. ORTIZ CRIADO whose telephone number is (571)272-7624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri 10:00 am- 6:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jorge L Ortiz-Criado/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627